



**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**MOLLY M. SPEARMAN**  
*STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION*

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Superintendents

**FROM:** Darlene Prevatt  
Team Leader, Office of Federal and State Accountability

**DATE:** September 29, 2017

**RE:** Testing Waiver Requests: Online Assessments and Last 20 Days

Online Assessments

The General Assembly now requires 100% online administration of all summative assessments for grades three through eight for the 2017–18 school year. S.C. Code § 59-18-325(C)(1)(g). Proviso 1.77 recognizes that there may be circumstances which make the online assessment compliance extremely difficult or burdensome to a school or district. As a result, districts and individual public charter schools may ask the State Board of Education (SBE) for a waiver to allow assessments to be administered via paper and pencil.

Waiver requests are to be made using the attached *Online Testing Waiver Request* form. This form must be completed in its entirety and be signed by both the superintendent or charter school superintendent and the chair of the district or charter school board. The waiver request must identify the specific reason(s) why the named assessments cannot be administered online and must also specify how the issues will be addressed for the following school year. Those districts that obtained a waiver in in the 2016–17 school year should also address what progress has been made on the plan that was presented to the State Board last year. Completed waiver requests are to be submitted to Darlene Prevatt at [dprevatt@ed.sc.gov](mailto:dprevatt@ed.sc.gov) **no later than December 1**. Contact her at (803) 734-3477 with any questions or concerns.

Last Twenty Days

The same statute now also requires that statewide summative assessments be administered “during the last twenty days of school as determined by the district’s regular instructional calendar....” S.C. Code § 59-18-325(C)(2)(a). The statute allows a district to request an extension of that period from the SBE **before December 1** of the school year. The request must include the scope and rationale for the extension, and an action plan for how the school will comply the next school year.